



Investigator's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Case file #: **002** Case name: **Fossil types**Location: **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Colorado**

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**Observations:**

After looking at some of the fossils found at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, you can see that there are differences between the redwood stumps and the delicately preserved insects and leaves. Take some time to make note of these differences. Did you notice that the insects and leaves appear to be flattened between layers of shale while the redwood stumps look like trees turned into rock? What other differences do you see?

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**Questions and hypotheses:**

Formulating hypotheses is an important step in your investigation. Your attempts to answer the questions will guide your search for evidence. Write a hypothesis for each question below.

Remember to write the hypothesis as an answer to the question, with as much detail as possible.

You should be able to test each hypotheses to see if it is true or false.

1. What are the differences between the redwood stumps and the plant and insect fossils?

2. How are each of these fossils preserved?

3. How does the process of preservation affect which type of fossil is formed?

**Evidence:**

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to investigate these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

**Fossils**

Fossil collection books

Making fossils

**Evidence:**

Types of fossils

Permineralization

Compression and impression

## Results and conclusions:

Now it's time for the final piece of your mystery - the solution! Take a look back at your observations, the questions you asked about them, and your hypotheses. Now, remember all that evidence you gathered? Does the evidence support each hypothesis? Use the evidence to write your conclusions.

## Verification:

I certify that I have personally investigated this mystery and collected all of the evidence. My results and conclusions are based on the evidence, through which I find my hypotheses to be (circle true OR false for each):

|              |             |              |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Hypothesis 1 | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| Hypothesis 2 | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| Hypothesis 3 | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_